

Feb. 2, 2004

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Wallington NJ Public School District has been involved in the e-rate program sponsored by the Schools and Libraries Universal Service Program for several years. As a low socio-economic district the funding received has been invaluable in providing services to our students. We currently have an issue of timeliness concerning eligibility for funding in the 2004-05 school year.

We initially submitted the FCC Form 470, including the Block 5 portion, electronically on Dec. 28, 2003. We believed this to be a successful transmission. On Monday, Jan. 12, we checked the status of the FCC Form 470 just to be certain that all was in order prior to beginning to work on the FCC Form 471. We were surprised to see that it was listed at incomplete and non-certified. We immediately prepared the Form 470 again and resubmitted it. We also printed and signed off on Block 5 of the Form 470. I mailed the signed authorization form to Lawrence, Kansas on that same day. We assumed that all was now in order.

On the morning of Feb. 2 we began to enter the required data for the submission of the FCC Form 471 for our vendors. We got a message indicating that the Form 471 would not be accepted because the Form 470 had not been active for the required 28 days. Considering that the deadline for submission of the Form 471 is Feb. 4, we would apparently be four days past the filing window.

Accordingly, we are requesting a waiver from the FCC policy regarding the Form 471 application filing window deadline. I believe that there were extenuating circumstances causing us to miss the deadline, namely a miscommunication of some sort of our initial submission. We did everything in a timely manner, and do not feel that the non receipt of the Form 470 and Block 5 of the authorization section was through any fault of ours.

Finally, your directions refer to serving the "public interest." In this case the public interest of the citizens of Wallington would not be served by denial of our request for a waiver. The Wallington Public School District has suffered budget defeats in 31 of the past 33 years. Funding from outside sources is at a premium. We simply could not afford to offer some of the services included in this request without your financial assistance.

Your consideration and cooperation is appreciated. Please respond as soon as possible so that we can submit the Form 471 prior to the Feb. 4 deadline if possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Frank A. Cocchiola, Jr.  
Superintendent of Schools